

BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London;
D.P.H., Cambridge.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL
AND SANATORIUM;

AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

1939.

Colchester:

WILES AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1939-40.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Deputy-Chairman :

ALDERMAN G. W. B. HAZELL, J.P.

Members :

COUNCILLOR W. ALLEN.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

COUNCILLOR J. CHASE.

COUNCILLOR A. CRAIG.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. E. HUNWICK.

COUNCILLOR F. A. JACKLIN.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of

MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND and Miss K. E. SANDERS, J.P., R.R.C.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officers of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon) (on Military Service, from 18/9/39).

MRS. W. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon :

J. F. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*A. FISHER. †*O. R. WARNER. †*C. J. JACOBI. †*R. F. KNOWLES.

† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

* Meat Inspector's Certificate

Health Nurses :

*†† Miss E. R. SMITH.

*†† Miss E. M. M. ROBERTS.

*†† Miss M. PENNICK.

*†† Miss M. E. RICKARD.

*†† Miss A. H. WEBBER.

Municipal Midwives :

*Mrs. L. J. BUNTING.

*† Miss E. PRENTICE.

Clerks :

R. D. SARGEANT, A.G.C.S. Miss P. C. WALDRON. Miss M. NORMAN.
A. W. MILLBOURN. W. B. WYNCOLL.^a L. G. NICHOLLS. H. T. PERCIVAL.
R. T. TAWELL.

Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT.

Disinfector :

H. EDWARDS.^a

^a On Military Service.

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

*† Miss D. COPELIN.

(Fever and Tuberculosis Nursing Certificates.)

Matron, Maternity Home :

*† Mrs. F. DENNIS.

* Certified Midwife.

† State Registered Nurse.

‡ Health Visitor's Certificate.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :

RONALD REID, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

Masseuse :

Miss D. DAWSON, M., M.E., L.E.T.

Veterinary Surgeon :

C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :

CHAS. A. HACKMAN, F.I.C.

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET.

2nd December, 1940.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Colchester.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1939.

At the request of the Ministry of Health this Report has been cut down to what may be considered essential to a continuous record.

The very low Death Rate and Rate of Infantile Mortality should be noted.

From September 3rd the whole of the Health Office staff was fully occupied with War Emergency Work. The normal work of the Department had to get done as best it could, but it did get done, as everyone worked all day and every day (including Sundays), to see the War well started.

Gradually the new work was absorbed and A.R.P. became part of the office routine. Voluntary workers gave invaluable help, additional clerks were engaged and an assistant for A.R.P. work, but even so the end of the year continued to be a time of strenuous endeavour for everyone in the Department.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939.

*An "Abridged Report" as defined in paragraph 2 of
Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	12,020
Population (1939 R.G. estimate)	52,550
" (Census, 1931)	48,701
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931)	10,520
" (1939) according to Rate Books	13,106
Number of Families or Separate Oocupiers (1931)	11,071
Rateable Value	£360,578
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,369

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

Live Births	{ Legitimate Male, 387 Female, 347 Total, 734
	{ Illegitimate " 21 " 14 " 35
Birth Rate	14.6
" " England and Wales	15.0
Still Births	Male, 14 Female, 18 Total, 32
Rate per 1,000 total births	40.0
Deaths	Male, 249 Female, 256 Total, 505
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ... crude	9.75
" " " " " corrected	9.2
" " England and Wales	12.1
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	43.0
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth—	
From Sepsis, —.	From Other Causes, 2.
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births—Legitimate, 27.2. Illegitimate, 57.1. Total,	28.5.
Deaths from Cancer	84
" " Measles	—
" " Whooping Cough	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.46
Other Tuberculosis Diseases Death Rate	0.08
Cancer Death Rate	1.6

Deaths of Colchester Residents, 1939.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	TOTALS
Enteric Fever	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Influenza	4	5	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	14	10	24
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	2	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease	37	47	84
Syphilis, &c.	3	...	3
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	2	...	2
Diabetes	3	3	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	9	16	25
Heart Disease	66	62	128
Aneurysm	1	1	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	16	17	33
Bronchitis	8	7	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	11	21
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	4	6
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Diarrhœa, &c. (over 2 years)	...	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	4	...	4
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	2	1	3
Diseases of Liver	1	5	6
Other Digestive Diseases	6	...	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	11	14
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes	...	2	2
Senility	3	12	15
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	7	9	16
Suicide	4	...	4
Other deaths from Violence	15	5	20
Other Defined Diseases	24	24	48
Causes ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...
Totals	249	256	505

The points worthy of note in the above tables are the following:—

1. The General Death Rate is one of the lowest ever recorded.
2. The Infantile Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded.
3. No Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, or Diarrhoea (under 2 years).
4. The Cancer Death Rate remains steady.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two alterations were made in these during 1939. The central Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic that was held at the Health Offices every Wednesday afternoon was moved to St. Paul's Parish Hall, Colne Bank Avenue, as it was considered unwise to have such a large collection of mothers and young children in the centre of the town each week.

The Methodist School, Wimpole Road, which has been used as a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, was taken as an A.R.P. Stretcher Party Depot, so the Welfare Clinic was moved to St. Mary Magdalene Parish Hall in the same road. Neither change has interfered with the attendances at these clinics.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water, Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging.

No change has been made during the year in the Water Supply of the Borough. Seventeen new services were provided at the request of the Health Department.

The reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works has been considerably hampered by the difficulty of obtaining certain materials.

Refuse collection is carried out by the fleet of Dennis rolling-floor refuse collecting vehicles, and the Bradford System of disposal upon one large tip continues to be carried out most successfully.

Sanitary Inspection.

General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.

Defects found ....	....	....	7,124
Defects remedied ....	....	....	7,646
Factories and Workshops inspected ....	....	....	57

Housing.

Floors or walls or ceilings repaired ....	....	2,128
Doors or windows, provided or repaired ....	....	2,137
Ovens or firegrates repaired ....	....	286
Stairs repaired ....	....	129
Rooms cleansed ....	....	90
Roofs repaired (including rainpipes and gutters) ....	....	547
Chimneys repaired or renewed ....	....	421
Damp houses remedied ....	....	629
Yards paved or repaired ....	....	107
Other housing repairs ....	....	491

Drainage.

Repairs and improvements	....	....	221
Water closets, provided or repaired	....	....	1,123

Other Sanitary Work.

Houses disinfected	....	....	160
Clothing disinfected, articles	....	....	6,364
Dustbins provided	....	....	92

This table has been greatly shortened and a number of minor items omitted.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Inspections	....	....	....	51
Premises freed	....	....	....	23

Police Court proceedings were taken against an owner of four houses for failing to comply with an Order to abate nuisances. A fine of £2 with costs was imposed, with a daily penalty if the work was not completed within 7 days.

Billeting.

During the Autumn a number of troops were billeted in the town. All the houses were inspected, and in 19 cases overcrowding was discovered and the necessary steps taken for abatement.

Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations.

Cowsheds and dairies were inspected at 168 visits and 11 contraventions of the orders or regulations were found and corrected.

**Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.
Offensive Trades.**

				Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier	...	...	...	25	30
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	1	4
Tallow Melter	...	...	...	1	5
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	...	...	...	6	9
Bone Boiler	...	...	...	1	5
Total				34	53
Horse Slaughterer	...	...	...	1	6

Some of the fish frying businesses were temporarily closed during the year. All the trades were carried on in a generally satisfactory manner.

Common Lodging Houses.

The three houses were conducted in a proper and orderly way.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses Infested—Council 7, Others 32	....	39
Houses Disinfested—Council 7, Others 32	....	39
Rooms Infested and Disinfested ....	....	79

There was a slight increase in the number of infested houses. The same methods of eradication were carried out as in previous years.

Unsound Fish.

Early in September a Wholesale Fish Depot was established in the Borough. A large consignment was inspected on September 5th and condemned. Daily inspections were continued but the scheme failed and the Depot closed on September 21st.

Unsound Imported Mutton.

On November 7th, 489 imported sheep and lamb carcasses were inspected at the request of a Storage Depot. All were found unfit for human food. They were surrendered to the Sanitary Inspector and destroyed. The total weight of the consignment was 8 tons 1 cwt.

Slaughter of Animals Act.

There were 3 contraventions of this Act. In one case a licence holder continued to slaughter after his licence had been suspended, legal proceedings were taken, and he was fined £2 and costs.

The other two were minor offences and the offenders were warned.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	36	7	...
Factories without mechanical power ...	21	3	...
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises) ...	...	...	...
Total ...	57	10	...

* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as Factories.

2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2)...	1	...	2	...
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	1	...	4	...
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)—				
Insufficient ...	1	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	11	2	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
*Other offences ...	...	1	9	...
Total ...	14	3	15	...

* Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).

Home Work.

Outworkers' Lists. Section 110.

Nature of Work.	Lists received from Employers twice a year.		
	Lists. (1)	Outworkers.	
		Contractors. (2)	Workmen. (3)
Wearing Apparel—Making, etc. ...	25	...	199
Furniture and Upholstery ...	4	...	6
Sack Making ...	...	...	...
Paper Receptacle Making ...	2	...	9
Total ...	31	...	214

In 1939 there were 11 lists of Outworkers, containing 70 names transferred from Colchester to other districts.

HOUSING.

Statistics for the Year 1939.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	272
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	—
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	272

I.—*Inspection.*

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	....	1,062
Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	....	13
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		679

II.—Number of defective houses rendered fit by Informal Action		520
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III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

Under Sects. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs		28
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Number rendered fit—

(a) By owners		33
(b) By Local Authority in default		—

Under Public Health Acts—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs		30
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Number complied with—

(a) By owners		21
(b) By Local Authority in default		—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	31

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	35
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein	....	35
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein	....	272
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	5
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	31
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	236
(d) Cases of houses again becoming overcrowded	....	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises					Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses:—						
Registered	...	...	10	}	15	1432
Licensed	...	...	5	}		
Bakehouses	...	...	31	}	32	6
Underground	...	...	1	}		
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...		95	111
Cowsheds	...	...	...		50	57
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...		160	191

Bacteriological Purity of Milk.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples taken by County Officers	28	 —
„ „ Borough Officers	—	 —

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk, 1938.

Pasteurised	....	....	....	14
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	5
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	....	....	....	1
Accredited (Bottling)	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised, Producer	....	....	....	2
Supplementary	....	....	....	1

Meat.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed (if known) ...	4076	32	297	10781	11429
Number Inspected ...	2153	7	30	4281	5712
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	1	5	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	72	1	—	5	47
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	3·4%	14·3%	3·3%	·2%	1·1%
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	—	—	—	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	76	2	—	—	365
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. ...	3·6%	28·6%	—	—	6·8%

Total Weight of Food Condemned and Destroyed.

25 tons, 12 cwts., 2 qtrs., 6 lbs.

Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk ...	50	18	(a) Fat deficient = 4%
Pasteurised Milk ...	6		(a) " " = 13%
Lemon Squash ...	1		(a) " " = 7%
Pearl Barley ...	1		(a) " " = 7%
Bloater Paste ...	2		(a) " " = 7%
Tinned Pears ...	1		(a) " " = 6%
Aspirin Tablets ...	2		(a) " " = 6%
Essence of Cinnamon ...	1		(a) " " = 9%
Oil of Eucalyptus ...	1		(b) " " = 3%
Olive Oil ...	1		(b) " " = 24%
Tinned Apricots ...	1		(b) " " = 10%*
Lobster Paste ...	1		(b) " " = 4%*
Chicken and Ham Paste ...	1		(b) " " = 18%*
Tinned Peas ...	4		(c) " " = 14%
Jam ...	2		(c) " " = 1%
Ground Ginger ...	2		(c) " " = 13%*
Corn Flour ...	3		(c) " " = 9%*
Coffee and Chicory ...	1		(c) " " = 7%*
Golden Syrup ...	1		
Mustard ...	2		(a) Original Samples.
Tea ...	2		(b) Course of delivery
Butter ...	7		Samples.
Cheese ...	2		(c) Farm Samples.
Condensed Milk ...	2		
Tapioca ...	2		
Pickles ...	2		
Margarine ...	2		
Brawn ...	1		
Lard ...	2		
Sausages ...	4		
Rice ...	2		
Cocoa ...	1		
Ground Rice ...	2		
Sugar ...	1		
Lemon Curd ...	1		
Castor Oil ...	1		
Glycerine ...	1		
Camphorated Oil ...	1		
Cod Liver Oil ...	1		
Cream of Tartar ...	1		
Licquorice Powder ...	2		
Bread ...	1		
White Pepper ...	1		
Rum ...	1		
Gin ...	1		
Mushroom Soup ...	1		
Vegetable Soup ...	1		
Whiskey ...	1		
Port Wine ...	1		
Ginger Wine ...	1		
Coffee ...	1		
Lemonade Crystals ...	1		
Baking Powder ...	1		
	136	18	

* Taken by County Inspector.

In seven cases the Farmer or Vendor was warned.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The number of visits to children from birth to 5 years of age was 10,845, and the visits of mothers and little children to the welfare clinics were as good as ever, 7,697 attendances being made during the year at the three clinics.

Infant Foods, Dried Milk, Virol, Lactogol, etc., have been distributed as in previous years, and to very much the same extent from the Clinics. 5,491 lbs. of dried milk were sold at cost price and 489 lbs. were given free of cost.

Under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 18,652 pints of fresh milk were supplied free to children and 2,501 pints free to expectant mothers.

The Antenatal Clinic held 99 sessions and 235 Colchester women and 99 women from neighbouring districts made 1,801 attendances at this Clinic.

The Women's Welfare Clinic was open once a month and 17 women from the Borough availed themselves of the lady doctor's advice.

The other clinics attended by mothers and little children were:—

Orthopædic Clinic.

Thirty-four pre-school children made 39 attendances.

Orthopædic Massage Clinic.

Open 72 times and 233 attendances made by pre-school children.

Dental Clinic.

Forty-five sessions were held for mothers and little children. Seventy-four mothers and 23 pre-school children received treatment, a large number of the former having dentures fitted.

Midwives.

There were 30 midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1939, and the births in the Borough attended by midwives were as follows:—

Midwives Act, 1936.	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
Births attended by the 2 Municipal Midwives	55	16
Births attended by the District Nursing Assoc. Midwives	109	12
Births attended by Private Midwives	209	58
Births attended in Institutions	196	362

Emergency Unit.

This unit, which was described in the Report for 1938, has been called out upon seven occasions during the year—three times in Colchester and four times in neighbouring districts. Each time with uniformly good results. Its value cannot be doubted.

Register of Foster Mothers and Boarded-Out Children.

Part I Children Act, 1908, as amended by Part V of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

	1938	1939
Children on Register 31st December	44	57
Names removed from the Register	32	28
Additions during the year	28	41
Foster Mothers on Register	36	43

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Two small Homes applied for registration during 1939. Both were inspected and approved. All four Private Nursing Homes in the Borough are well looked after and conducted.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Only three patients were removed from the Borough to the Isolation Hospital although 20 cases were notified. Nine more patients were sent to the Isolation Hospital from neighbouring districts. All these cases made excellent recoveries. One death from this condition occurred in the Essex County Hospital. This kind of illness is now much more readily notified than was the case some years ago.

BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME.**Work of the Home.**

	1938	1939
Admitted: Borough Patients 204, from County Council Area 95, from Harwich 17, Private outside district cases 4	349	320
Delivered in the Home	343	311
Admitted for Ante-natal Care only	11	9
Delivered by the Nursing Staff	183	144
„ „ Doctors	160	167
Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Midwives Acts	113	87

The fees paid by both the County and Borough patients vary from 3/- a day to 15/- a day. More than half the patients paid from 6/- to 7/6 per day.

After some delay the enlargement of the Home was put in hand, but the work was not begun until the latter part of the year. When completed the Home will have accommodation for 26 mothers, and in addition three isolation wards and the necessary nurseries, labour wards, etc.

A large number of abnormal and difficult cases were admitted to the Home. Only six baby deaths occurred and no maternal deaths.

The Home was open throughout the year and carried on its work with complete success.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1939.

(Civilian and Military Cases.)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases in Age Groups											Cases admitted to Hospital	
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64		65 and over
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	44	—	—	1	5	3	18	4	4	6	1	2	—	40
Diphtheria ...	10	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	1	1	—	10
Acute Polio-encephalitis)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	15	2	—	—	3
Pneumonia ...	56	5	4	1	—	2	8	1	5	11	5	11	3	1

Other Diseases Generally Notifiable.

Malaria	...	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	4	5	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	}	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	}	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	}	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	5
Dysentery	...	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	19	11	27	7	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	}	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Other Diseases Notifiable Locally.

Measles	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough		67	5	16	13	12	19	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

The new sulphonamide drugs do not appear to have affected the number of persons dying from pneumonia as 52 deaths were ascribed to this disease.

Other deaths from an Infectious Disease were one each from Diphtheria, Encephalitis, Lethargica, and Puerperal Pyrexia, and two from Dysentery. The last two occurred at one of the Mental Institutions.

The following table shows the total cases admitted to the Borough Isolation Hospital and the large number of Districts this Hospital serves. An outbreak of Scarlet Fever in a Home for German boy refugees accounts for the 32 cases mentioned.

Two pavilions in the Isolation Hospital are given up to cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one of these is devoted to severe or advanced cases. Many of these cannot recover, but the last weeks and often months of their lives are made as happy and comfortable as possible. It will be seen below that 16 of these patients died out of 68 sent in by the Essex County Council.

There is nothing unusual to note about the cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital. The great increase of cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever that occurred in the winter of 1939-40 was only in its earliest stages at the end of 1939.

In the Borough, Infectious Diseases were altogether below the usual number both of notifiable and non-notifiable disease. No cases of Measles were notified and only 67 cases of Whooping Cough.

Isolation Hospital.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1939.

Authority sending in cases	Scarlet Fever	Deaths	Diphtheria	Deaths	Typhoid Fever	Deaths	Other Diseases	Deaths	Total	Deaths
Colchester Borough	34	...	7	...	...	...	24	1	65	2
Essex County Hospital	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	3	2
Mental Institutions	5	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	9	...
War Department	...	...	2	...	...	...	27	...	29	...
Wivenhoe U.D.	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Brightlingsea U.D.	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Tendring R.D.	44	...	6	1	...	...	1	...	51	1
Lexden and Winstree R.D.	18	...	9	...	1	...	8	1	36	1
Melford R.D.	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Essex County Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	16	68	16
West Mersea U.D.	4	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	6	...
Clacton U.D.	10	...	22	2	...	...	11	...	43	2
Sudbury U.D.	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2	1
Frinton and Walton U.D.	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	6	...
Harwich Borough	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	...
Dunmow R.D.	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Witham U.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
German Refugees	32	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	35	...
Naval Authorities	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	10	...
Private Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
Total Cases	167	...	55	...	1	...	158	...	381	...
Deaths	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	19	...	25

The two new Pavilions, one for Scarlet Fever cases and the other a block of cubicles, were almost complete at the end of the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

The immunization of children against Diphtheria was begun at the end of 1939.

Children are immunized in two groups, those from nine months old to ten years old with two injections of A.P.T. (Alum Precipitated Toxoid, 0.25 c.c. and 0.5 c.c.), with a four weeks' interval between the injections. At first only a three weeks' interval was allowed, but this was later extended to four weeks.

For children from 10 years to 16 years old, three injections of T.A.F. are used (Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules), each injection being of 1 c.c. with an interval of two weeks between the injections.

No Shick Tests are carried out.

Each child must bring a consent form signed by a parent or guardian before the immunization is undertaken, and full records are kept of all cases.

The number of children fully immunized were:—

9-12ths year to 5 years ....	....	....	4
5 to 10 years ....	....	....	8
10 to 16 years ....	....	....	—

Four further children attended for their first doses but failed to complete the course.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
2-4	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
5-9	...	...	1	7	2	...	...	...	...
10-14	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	1	...
15-19	...	1	1	2	2	...	1	...	...
20-24	...	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
25-34	...	6	...	1	...	4	2	...	...
35-44	...	5	...	...	...	2	2	1	...
45-54	...	5	...	...	...	2	3	...	...
55-64	...	5	...	...	1	5	2	...	...
65 and upwards...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	...	27	4	17	9	14	10	2	2

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
20%	5.5%	1.6%	21.4%	43.0%

Tuberculosis Register.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Pulmonary Cases	166	156	153	158	160
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	60	67	80	93	86

There is very little change in the number of cases of Tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

„ „ „ 1936, „ 172.

No action was found necessary under any of the above powers.

The increase in the number of other forms of Tuberculosis was again almost exclusively due to slight affections of the cervical glands.

Treatment of Blind Persons.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

„ „ „ 1936, „ 176.

No action was required under either of these Sections.

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HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET.



